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## MSWG News Items

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### The Winter 2007 MSWG meeting

**February 5-6, 2007  
Nashville, Tennessee**

*The 2007 Winter Regional Meeting is coming soon. Join us in Nashville for a day and a half of important discussions.*

This meeting is co-hosted by the Tennessee [Department of Environment and Conservation](#) and the [LP Corporation](#). Agenda and themes are under development, but we expect to have a strong public health presence. We are also working with the [Auditing Roundtable](#) to get their participation. Watch for notices and monitor our [website](#).

#### Toronto Meeting

The Fall 2006 Regional Meeting was held on October 16 and 17, 2006 in Toronto, Ontario. The meeting was extremely successful. Our thanks go to the [Ontario Ministry of the Environment](#) for a very professional job of hosting and running the meeting. A full report is available [here](#).

As a result of their participation in the Toronto meeting, the Province of Alberta, specifically [Alberta Environment](#), has joined MSWG. Welcome aboard!

#### Chinese Scholars on China's Environment

Also in Toronto, a network of Chinese students and scholars who have joined together to address China's environmental challenges requested, and were granted, affiliation with MSWG. The report of this new network's first meeting is [here](#).

#### 2007 Workshop: International theme

The next MSWG workshop will be June 17-21, 2007 at the Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Monona Terrace in Madison, Wisconsin. The theme is "*An International Dialogue on Environmental Policy*", with a working title of *Has America Been Leapfrogged?* and will include ideas from around the world that could relate to The Path to Washington as well as application in states and communities.

These topics are already on the associated meeting list: innovative environmental governance; product stewardship; green infrastructure; scholars' network; health and sustainable communities; business and energy efficiency; water infrastructure; Scandinavian forestry; creating a young leaders' network.

Volunteers should contact Jeff Smoller at [Jeffrey.Smoller@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Jeffrey.Smoller@dnr.state.wi.us). A travel brochure is [here](#).

#### MSWG and the Path to Washington

Work continues on MSWG's effort to frame new environmental thinking. The [Board of Directors](#) of MSWG, Inc. and the [Board of Regents](#) of the MSWG Policy Academy held a joint meeting in Washington on September 8. A report of the meeting is [here](#). As a result of that meeting, a mission statement for the Path to Washington, available [here](#), and a Fact Sheet, available [here](#), were produced.

## MSWG News Bits

The State of Wisconsin is a leader in the United States in implementing performance-based environmental programs. The 2006 Progress report on their Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program is now available [here](#). This report highlights many of the positive outcomes resulting from the pilot agreements. Graphs show the environmental performance of participants vs. non-participants.

Jason Morrison of the [Pacific Institute](#) and Jill Cooper of the [Colorado Department of Public Health & the Environment](#), participated in an [American Chemistry Council](#) stakeholder review of the [Responsible Care](#)® program. The stakeholder group presented its report on October 24, more information [here](#).

Jennifer Smith Grubb of [Sustainable Silicon Valley](#), reports that they have released a report on their progress toward limiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. See [here](#) for more information.

An update on the work of the [UN Environment Programme's Best Practices Network](#) is [here](#).

Compiled by [Bob Minicucci](#), MSWG Secretary

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## Re-connecting environment and public health

Erv Ball, assistant director of environmental health for the [Cuyahoga \(Ohio\) County District Board of Health](#) and Prof. Catherine Zeman, [School of Health, University of Northern Iowa](#) will co-chair a new MSWG committee whose working title is Environment, Public Health and Sustainable Communities Committee. MSWG President Smoller said public health is the historic foundation of environmental regulation but for cultural, constituency and bureaucratic reasons, the functions have drifted apart and even become government rivals. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) in Atlanta will be a part of the MSWG effort. Ball and Zeman will lead a discussion at the Feb. 5-6 MSWG meeting in Nashville.